
Good Friday Blues

Jazz Lamentation

April 3, 2026, 7:00PM



Until I die my burthen be;
How Calvary in Palestine,
Extending down to me and mine,
Was but the first leaf in a line
Of trees on which a Man should swing
World without end, in suffering
For all men's healing, let me sing.

from "The Black Christ"
by Countee Cullen

GOOD FRIDAY BLUES: JAZZ LAMENTATION
“CAN WE CHANGE?”

PRELUDE *Crisis* Freddie Hubbard

WELCOME Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor, First Congregational UCC*
Rev. Maggie Gann, *Pastor, Sts. Clare & Francis ECC*

INTROIT *Were You There?* Traditional

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

PART ONE: CRISIS

Scripture Narrative John 19:1-3, 16-19 Pew Bible, p. 987

Dramatic Narrative *The Killing* Niki and Ari

*At the Sankofa Café, public officials Niki and Ari meet
to discuss a recent government action
which has resulted in the death of a popular cultural figure.*

Punctuation *Strange Fruit* Abel Meeropol

Southern trees bear strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop

PART TWO: WIND CHILDREN

Scripture Narrative John 3:1-4, 7-10

p. 968

Dramatic Narrative

Big Sister

Niki and Ari

Punctuation

Red Clay

Freddie Hubbard

Cliff Aerie, lyrics

Searching for the answer to my questions
It's like the wind blowing tears from my eyes!
Is there an answer to the riddle?
Seeking meaning from this disaster
How can it be? How can God let this happen?
Is there a pathway to redemption?

Oh, no! I can't bear it!

Oh, no! I regret it!

Now the future looks bleak before me
Where can I go with my soul, shattered spirit?
All is lost. Regret overwhelms me!

PART THREE: REGRET

Scripture Narrative

John 7:32, 45-52

p. 974

Dramatic Narrative

Remorse

Niki and Ari

Punctuation

Dahomey Dance

John Coltrane

Cliff Aerie, lyrics

Hang on! Hold on Tight!
Mercy! What a sight!
Goodness! It ain't right!

Darkness. No more sun.
Ended. It's all done.
Chaos has begun.

Turn! Turn! Where to go?
No one, no one knows.
Where the future goes.

Doors closed! Bridges burn!
No place left to turn
Dead end. So, I mourn.

PART FOUR: TRY, TRY AGAIN

Scripture Narrative

John 18:15-18, 25-27

p. 986

Dramatic Narrative

Additional Choices

Niki and Ari

Punctuation

Man in the Mirror

Glen Ballard

Siedah Barrett, lyrics

I'm gonna make a change
For once in my life
It's gonna feel real good
Gonna make a difference, gonna make it right

As I turn up the collar on my favorite winter coat
This wind is blowin' my mind
I see the kids in the street with not enough to eat
Who am I to be blind, pretending not to see their needs?

A summer's disregard, a broken bottle top
And one man's soul
They follow each other on the wind, ya know
'Cause they got nowhere to go
That's why I want you to know

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself and then make a change

I've been a victim of a selfish kinda love
It's time that I realize
That there are some with no home, not a nickel to loan
Could it be really me pretending that they're not alone?

A willow deeply scarred, somebody's broken heart
And a washed-out dream
They follow the pattern of the wind, ya see
'Cause they got no place to be
That's why I'm starting with me

I'm starting with the man in the mirror ...

PART FIVE: MERCY

Dramatic Narrative

The Undertaking

Niki and Ari

Scripture Narrative

John 19:38-42

p. 988

Punctuation

Fragile

Sting

If blood will flow when flesh and steel are one
Drying in the colour of the evening sun
Tomorrow's rain will wash the stains away
But something in our minds will always stay
Perhaps this final act was meant
To clinch a lifetime's argument
That nothing comes from violence and nothing ever could
For all those born beneath an angry star
Lest we forget how fragile we are
On and on the rain will fall
Like tears from a star like tears from a star
On and on the rain will say
How fragile we are how fragile we are

PRAYERFUL RESPONSE

Prayer
Cliff Aerie, lyrics

Keith Jarrett

In the gathering darkness I offer a prayer,
to the One who stays by me and asks that I dare
step into the dark shadows that fall everywhere.

Take my hand Grand Designer and lead me this day
in the pathway before me, my compass and stay.
May your Spirit bring guidance, please show me the way.

Fill my heart with your Spirit and enter this space,
bringing hope to a story that fear can't erase.
Bless our journey together and grant me your grace.

INTERLUDE

Spiritual

John Coltrane

BENEDICTION

Which Way to Turn? Rev. Denoon & Rev. Gann

POSTLUDE

Save the Country

Laura Nyro

Come on, people! Come on, children!
Come on down to the glory river
Gonna wash you up, and wash you down
Gonna lay the devil down, gonna lay that devil down

Come on, people! Come on, children!
There's a king at the glory river
And the precious king, he loved the people to sing
Babes in the blinkin' sun sang, "We shall overcome"

And I got fury in my soul
Fury's gonna take me to the glory goal
In my mind I can't study war no more
Save the people! Save the children!
Save the country, save the country now!

Come on, people! Come on, children!
Come on down to the glory river
Gonna wash you up and wash you down
Gonna lay the devil down, lay the devil down

Come on people! Sons and mothers!
Keep the dream of the two young brothers
Gonna take that dream and ride that dove
We can build the dream with love, I know

And I got fury in my soul
Fury's gonna take me to the glory goal
In my mind I can't study war no more
Save the people! Save the children! Save the country!

SILENT REFLECTION

*We encourage you to remain in silent reflection after the Postlude,
and to exit in silence, when you are ready.*

We want to acknowledge the music leadership of the Oïkos Jazz Ensemble. They are

Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone

Carolbeth True, piano

Randy Holmes, trumpet

Glen Smith, bass

David True, percussion

with **Kim Fuller-Barnes** and **Arianna Aerie**, vocals

We are also grateful to the contributions of the following readers and performers of tonight's scripted portions:

the Rev. **Merrimon Boyd**

Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Affton;

Dr. **Leon Burke, III**

Director of Music & Organist, First Congregational

David Broemmelsick (Ari) and **Therese Gabriel**

members of Sts. Clare & Francis

and

Andrea Welnick (Niki)

member of First Congregational

Offerings

A brass plate is on the table in the Narthex, for the collection of offerings to benefit the Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). If you are making a check contribution, please make it payable to "FCCWG" and write "MICA" in the memo line. MICA is also a selection on the dropdown menu at the Donate page of our website – **FirstChurchWG.org/donate**

Worship for Easter

Sts. Clare & Francis Church invite you to join them for Easter Vigil, tomorrow evening at 7:00PM. Weather permitting, worship will start in the garden on the east side of the building.

First Congregational Church will conduct worship for the Day of Resurrection, on Easter Sunday, beginning with Festival Brass and Bells at 9:45AM.

Both churches welcome all! Please, consider attending.

Welcome to



*We'll be up
with your order
in a moment.*

*First, we have to
go back and get it!*

Sankofa Café

Sts. Clare & Francis

Distinct. Inclusive. Catholic.

linktr.ee/scfecc



pro LGBT+
pro women
pro science
pro choice
pro community
yes, really

Mass: 5pm, Saturdays

10 W Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



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Worship and Kids Church
Sundays at 10am

